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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Cardiss Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6100

Dear Congresswoman Collins,

Thank you for your letter forwarding the correspondence from the American Library Association (ALA), the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National School Boards Association. In particular, the correspondence from these five education and library organizations includes a copy of the reply comments they filed in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking released by the Commission in CC Docket No. 94-1 on February 16, 1994 ("Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers").

The proposal seeks to redirect the Consumer Productivity Dividend associated with price caps to a program designed to benefit schools and libraries through plans mutually agreed upon by all parties.

As new technologies develop, it is important to explore the promise of the information superhighway insofar as it will benefit schoolchildren and libraries. To this end, many states are working actively on projects that would facilitate distance learning and connect the classrooms in their states, and I am sure that you are aware of the Administration's recent proposal to use some of the revenues generated from the Commission's personal communications service license auctions for projects to connect schools to the national information infrastructure. In addition, the private sector has been actively

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Honorable Cardiss Collins

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working on innovative solutions to promote these goals. The Commission intends to study the proposals of the ALA and others to ensure that the demands of the educational marketplace are satisfied and that the public interest is best served.

As the Price Cap Performance Review is a pending Rule Making, a copy of your letter has been placed in the record in CC Docket 94-1 and will be carefully considered as we resolve the issues therein.

Thank you again for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures



July 22, 1994

The Honorable Cardiss Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1307

Dear Congresswoman Collins:

Because of your interest in education and in telecommunications reform, we would appreciate your help in getting the FCC to approve the attached filing. If you think our proposal has merit, we would appreciate your writing a letter to FCC Chairman Hundt, endorsing our recommendation. Please fax a copy of your reply or letter of endorsement to us at 202-408-1134.

Our organization recently formed an alliance to respond to CC Docket 94-1, the Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers; Our alliance includes the American Library Association, The Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National School Boards Association. We believe that our recommendation to the Commission is innovative and will be of direct benefit to our nation's schools and libraries. Our members have enormous needs and we struggle to find creative options for providing the products and services they require.

National Association
of Secondary School Principals
1904 Association Drive
Reston, Virginia 22091-1537

National School Boards
Association
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, Virginia
22314-3493

National Education Association
1201 16th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-3290

Council of Chief
State School Officers
One Massachusetts Avenue,
N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431

American Library Association
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002-5675

Our proposal asks that the FCC redirect the Consumer Productivity Dividend (CPD) that is now part of the annual access rate price cap formula to a program designed to benefit schools and libraries through plans mutually-agreed upon by all parties. We recommend that the CPD, which is worth approximately \$300 million a year, be allocated to a special account against which the LECs would charge investments made in educational and library infrastructure in their telephone service territories. Although this amount will not solve all of our needs, it's a giant step in the right direction.

The Vice President has set a worthy goal of connect every classroom, library and hospital to the NII by the year 2000. At the same time, Congress has been taking a leadership role in promoting the NII and in reforming communications laws to encourage its development.

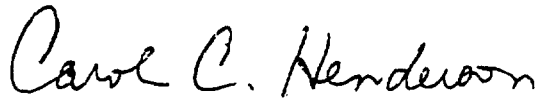
As with the NII, education has been a key issue with both the Administration and Congress, as evidenced by the recent passage of Goals 2000 legislation. Clearly, there is a strong link between the development of the NII and the improvement of the nation's K-12 education system.

The NII promises to provide schools and libraries with the ability to tap into vast stores of information, get in touch with other classes and teachers to compare information, and share experiences and ideas more widely than has ever been possible before. It promises to open a true "window to the world" for the library, classroom and students, providing a rich source of information and ideas that children can access no matter where their school or library is located.

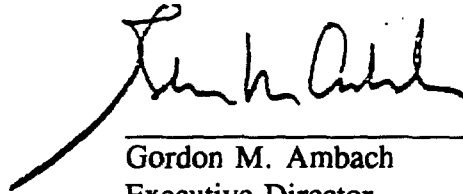
We believe that the government has a clear role in ensuring that policies are adopted that both stimulate private sector investment and ensure that the public sector, including education and libraries, have a primary place in and can benefit from the NII.

The FCC has recognized the potential to leverage public policy to stimulate private investment in the NII in its current price caps proceeding. We believe that the proceeding offers a unique opportunity to stimulate increased investments in technologies and services that will bring the benefits of the NII to schools and libraries more rapidly than would otherwise be the case. We do not believe this opportunity should be passed by and ask that you urge the commission to shape an appropriate policy to encourage investment in the NII for education.

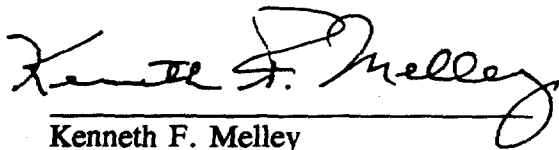
Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have questions, please call Carol Henderson, American Library Association, 202-547-4440; Frank Withrow, Council of Chief State School Officers, 202-336-7003; Timothy J. Dyer, National Association of Secondary School Principals 703-860-0200; Carolyn Breedlove, National Education Association, 202-822-7310; Jay Butler, National School Boards Association, 703-838-6225.



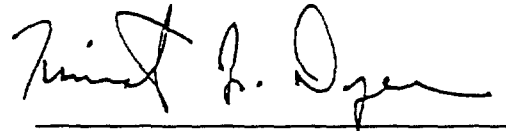
Carol C. Henderson
Executive Director
American Library Association



Gordon M. Ambach
Executive Director
Council of Chief State School
Officers



Kenneth F. Melley
Assistant Executive Director
National Education Association



Timothy J. Dyer
Executive Director
National Association of
Secondary School Principals



Michael A. Resnick
Senior Associate Executive Director
National School Boards Association